Local Boards

Lease of steamer 'Nell.'

* 1846 Q.—Mr. J. Bheemayya : With reference to the appendix to the answer to question No. 483 answered on 23rd March 1927, will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government will be pleased to call for the information from the District Board, West Godavari, regarding the steps they have taken to ensure the safety of the lives of the passengers of the steamer 'Nell,' the boiler of which was reported to have been unfit for use in paragraph 5 of the letter R.C. No. 560, dated 4th May 1926, from the District Board President, and lay it on the table of the House ;

(b) whether the Government will be pleased to ascertain from the District Board how many persons offered to pay large sums to the District Board for granting them the lease of the steamer 'Nell' before and after it passed its resolution No. 450, dated 25th September 1925, who and how much, and lay that information on the table of the House ; and

(c) why paragraphs 6 and 7 of the letter from the President, District Board, Kistna, R.C. No. 560/Pet. D.B. of 1925, dated 4th May 1926, were omitted and whether they also will be placed on the table of the House?

A.—(a) The boiler is reported to be in good condition and to have been inspected every year by the Inspector of Steam Boilers and Prime Movers, Madras.

(b) The following persons offered the amounts noted against them :—

	RS.	
Achanta Venkata Narasimham of Achanta	3,000	per year.
Racherla Venkata Krishna Rao of Kovvur	3,600 to 4,000	„
Atkuri Satya Raja Gopalam of Narsapur	2,400	„
Alluri Suryanarayanaraju and Datla Ramaraju of Chintalapalli, Razole taluk	2,550	„
Racharnalla Suryaprakasa Rao and Chodisetty Venkataratnam of East Godavari district	4,000 to 5,000	„

(c) The paragraphs were omitted as they were not relevant and the Government see no necessity to place them now on the table.

Number of polling stations in the Bellary and Adoni Taluk Boards.

* 1847 Q.—Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar : Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) the number of villages or the area for which according to the instructions, if any, of the Government there should be at least one polling station for the election of members to (i) Legislative Council ; (ii) Taluk Board ; and (iii) Temple Committees ; and

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(*b*) (i) the number of villages in each of the firkas comprised in the Bellary and Adoni Taluk Board areas; (ii) the number of polling stations fixed by the president of each taluk board in connexion with the election of members to it; and (iii) the number of villages allotted for each of the polling stations?

A.—(*a*) (i) There is no fixed number of villages or specified area for which at least one polling station should be opened. The criterion in fixing such stations is the convenience of the electors. As a guide, Collectors and Returning Officers have been instructed to consider the desirability of opening additional polling stations where villages lie outside a five-mile radius from the station to which they are allotted under the existing distribution.

(ii) The Government have not issued any instructions on the point. Under the rules for the election of members of taluk boards, polling stations are fixed by presidents of taluk boards.

(iii) There should be at least one polling station for each Revenue Inspector's firka.

(*b*) (i) to (iii) A statement [a] furnishing the information is appended.

Administration Reports

Administration reports under the hon. the Minister for Public Health.

* 1848 *Q.*—Mr. J. A. SALDANHA: Will the hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased—

(i) to place before the Council a statement showing—

(*a*) the administration reports of the several departments under his control for the years 1927–28 and 1928–29;

(*b*) the months in which they were published with reviews; and

(ii) to state whether any, and if so, what steps have been taken to place them before the public at an early date?

A.—(*i*) (*a*) & (*b*) A statement [b] is appended. Reports for 1928–29 are due only after the close of March 1929.

(*ii*) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the answer to question No 1841.

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA:—"May I know why there is so much delay in supplying Members of Legislative Councils with copies of these reports even after their publication?"

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN:—"I think that Members of the Legislative Council are supplied with these reports as soon as possible."

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA:—"The reviews on these reports appear in the papers earlier and we Members do not receive copies for some 10 or 12 days afterwards. May I know whether the Government cannot take steps to supply them to us quicker?"

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN:—"I shall see that hon. Members get these reports at the same time as the Newspaper Press."

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[a] Printed as Appendix II on pages 782–783 infra.

[b] Printed as Appendix III on page 783 infra.